

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1, and cancel Claims 5-9, without prejudice, as

follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising at least a perpendicular magnetic recording layer and a backing layer backing said perpendicular magnetic recording layer, said backing layer having an in-plane magnetization,

characterized in that said backing layer is formed of a ferrimagnetic material having a compensation temperature in the vicinity of a recording/reproducing temperature in which reproducing of magnetic information is made from said perpendicular magnetic recording layer,

wherein said ferromagnetic ferrimagnetic backing layer has an easy axis in an in-plane direction.

2. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said recording/reproducing temperature is -20 to +100°C.